

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto please find a replacement sheet including Figure 1.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the Examiner's objection of Figure 1, Figure 1 has been revised to include the recitation "Prior Art." Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objection of Figure 1.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Examiner states that Mizukami discloses all the elements of Claim 1. After review of the cited reference, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. Claim 1 recites an earphone jack having two terminals which are disconnected from each other when an earphone plug is inserted into the jack, a switching unit connected to one of the two terminals, and driven when the two terminals are connected to each other and a comparator connected to the switching unit, for generating a first state signal when the switching unit is driven, and generating a second state signal when the switching unit is not driven. The Examiner equates the two terminals as recited in Claim 1 with terminals "e" and "g" as taught by Mizukami; equates the switching unit as recited in Claim 1 with on-off switch S1 as taught by Mizukami; and equates the comparator as recited in Claim 1 with the element 8 (which is known as the plug determining circuit) of Mizukami (See Office Action, Pages 2-3).

Mizukami teaches a connector device for connecting, to a first information-handling apparatus, a plurality of second information-handling apparatuses having different impedances by connectors comprising jacks and plugs. With reference to FIGs. 2 and 5, Mizukami teaches terminals “e” and “g” are connected to the plug determining circuit 8 and the ground, respectively. Nowhere in Mizukami is it taught or suggested that terminals “e” and “g” be connected to the on-off switch S1.

Accordingly, Mizukami does not teach or suggest an earphone jack having two terminals which are disconnected from each other when an earphone plug is inserted into the jack, and a switching unit connected to one of the two terminals, and driven when the two terminals are connected to each other, as is recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Mizukami discloses plug determining circuit 8 is connected to the contacts a, e of jack J and that the on-off switch S1 is controlled so as to be turned on or off by a switch control signal from the plug determining circuit 8 (Column 5, Lines 1-4). In other words, the operative states of switch S1 are controlled by plug determining circuit 8 which supplies a control signal to turn on the switch S1.

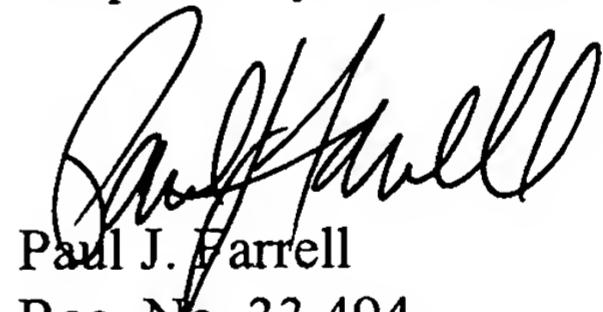
In contrast, Claim 1 recites a comparator connected to the switching unit, for generating a first state signal when the switching unit is driven, and generating a second state signal when the switching unit is not driven.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Accordingly, it is believed that independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-6, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on independent Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-6 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-6, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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